

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claim 1 as follows, claim 6 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and newly claim 8 has been added. A detailed listing of all claims is as follows.

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A pickup device of an apparatus for recording or reproducing information, by irradiation of a light beam, to and from a multi-layered recording medium having a plurality of recording layers laminated through spacer layers, the device comprising:

an illumination optical system including an objective lens for focusing a light beam onto any of said recording layers of said multi-layered recording medium; and

a detecting optical system including a photodetector for receiving and photoelectrically converting reflection light from said recording layer of said multi-layered recording medium through said objective lens; wherein said photodetector has a normalized detector size ( $B/\beta^2$ ) of a size of ~~10  $\mu\text{m}^2$  to~~ 50  $\mu\text{m}^2$  or lower, and

wherein the normalized detector size ( $B/\beta^2$ ) is given by an equation of

$$B/\beta^2 = L^2 / (f_c/f_{OB})^2$$

wherein L denotes a size of one side of the photodetector,  $f_c$  denotes a focal distance of the detecting optical system and  $f_{OB}$  denotes a focal distance of the objective lens,

wherein said objective lens has a numerical aperture of 0.85 or greater.

Claims 2-6 (Cancelled).

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): A pickup device according to claim 1, further comprising a detecting circuit connected to said photodetector, wherein said detecting circuit outputs signals with 3% or lower of a reproduced signal distortion.

Claim 8 (New): A pickup device according to claim 1, wherein said normalized detector has a size of  $10\ \mu\text{m}^2$  to  $50\ \mu\text{m}^2$ .